

**ADDENDUM TO THE FACT SHEET
FOR STATE WASTE DISCHARGE
PERMIT NO. WA-005152-7**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

**TREE TOP, INC.
WENATCHEE PLANT
PO BOX 1300
WENATCHEE, WA 98801**

II. APPLICATION REVIEW

An application for permit reissuance was submitted to the Department of Ecology (Department) on August 5, 2004 and accepted August 25, 2004. Prior to making a determination whether to reauthorize an existing permit or conduct a full renewal, a thorough review of the permit and compliance history of the facility is conducted. This review shall be sufficiently detailed as to insure the following:

- That the permittee is in compliance with all of the terms, conditions, requirements and schedules of compliance of the expired permit;
- That the Department has up-to date information on the Permittee's waste treatment practices; nature, content, and frequencies of Permittee's discharge; either pursuant to the submission of new forms and applications or pursuant to monitoring records and reports resubmitted to the Department by the permittee; and
- That the discharge is consistent with applicable effluent standards and limitations, water quality standards, and other legally applicable requirements listed in WAC 173-220-130.

The application for Tree Top, Inc. - Wenatchee Plant and discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) were reviewed and they indicate no change in the effluent characteristics or volume of wastewater have occurred.

III. PERMIT REAUTHORIZATION

This fact sheet addendum accompanies the draft permit, which is to be reauthorized to Tree Top, Inc. - Wenatchee Plant for the discharge of wastewater to the Columbia River. The previous fact sheet is also part of this administrative record and explains the basis for the discharge limitations and conditions of the reauthorized permit.

The permit reauthorization process, in concert with the routine renewal of high priority permits, allows the Department to reissue permits in a timely manner and minimize the number of active permits that have passed expiration dates. A system of ranking the relative significance of the environmental benefit to be gained by renewing a permit rather than reauthorizing a permit is followed during the Department's annual permit planning process. Each permit that is due for reissuance is assessed and compared with other permits that are also due for reissuance. The public is notified and input is sought after the initial draft ranking has tentatively established which permits are likely to be completely renewed and which are likely to be reauthorized. All relevant comments and suggestions are considered before a final decision is made regarding the type of reissuance for each permit.

The existing permit requirements, including discharge limitations and monitoring, do not need to be changed to protect the receiving water quality. The previous fact sheet adequately addressed conditions and issues at the facility at the time the previous permit was issued. The Department has not received any information during the previous permit term indicating environmental impacts from the discharge were overlooked. Nor have incidents severe enough to undertake a complete renewal of the permit occurred during that time period.

Tree Top, Inc. - Based on a review of compliance history, the Wenatchee Plant has a 100% compliance rate with the limits established in the existing permit for the time frame January 2002 to March 2005. The limited parameters established in the existing permit consist of pH, BOD₅ loading, and TSS loading.

The permit limitations established in the current permit are given in the table below:

Parameter	Units	Average Year	Average Monthly	Maximum Daily
BOD ₅	lbs/day	351	1,286	2,117
TSS	lbs/day	649	2,663	3,801
Parameter	Units	Range of Limitation		
pH	Standard Units	Shall not be outside the range of 6.0 to 9.0		

The existing permit's S1. gave maximum daily limits for BOD₅ and TSS loadings. For the period January 2002 to March 2005 these limits were not exceeded. Average yearly and average monthly pounds per day of TSS and BOD discharges continue to be below the limits in the existing permit issued March 10, 2000. A presentation of the plant's wastewater treatment performance, as it relates to compliance with the loading limits is given in the table below:

Parameter (Units)	Demonstrated Performance -- January 2002 to March 2005			
	Average Monthly Loading Limits	Percentage Results - Average Monthly Monitoring	Maximum Daily Limit	Number of Maximum Daily Exceedances
BOD ₅ (lbs/day)	1,286	2.0	2,117	0
TSS (lbs/day)	2,663	10.5	3,801	0

Parameter (Units)	Average Yearly Limit	Demonstrated Performance -- Yearly Percentage of Permit's Loading Limits		
		2002	2003	2004
BOD ₅ (lbs/day)	351	5.7	11.2	5.7
TSS (lbs/day)	649	34.2	59.8	36.2

The discharge limits and conditions in effect at the time of expiration of the previous permit are carried over unchanged to this reauthorized permit. Assessment of compliance and inspections of the facility during the previous permit term indicate that the facility should not be placed on a high priority for permit renewal. All required reports and submittals in the existing permit were received on-time. The Department assigns a high priority for permit renewals in situations where water quality would materially benefit from a more stringent permit during the next five-year permit.

The discharge from this facility is subject to limitations established in the existing permit with an effective date of May 1, 2000.

The fact sheet that accompanies the Permit issued March 10, 2000 contains the following details that need acknowledgement and/or clarification:

- Fact Sheet Page 7 – The requirement (March 10, 2000 permit's Special Condition S4.B) for an Emergency Electrical Generator Plan was satisfied with a report to the Department dated October 4, 2000.
- Fact Sheet Page 7 – The plant no longer uses its stormwater outfall. The stormwater outfall was eliminated in 2003 and a Notice of Termination of Coverage under the Industrial Stormwater Permit was issued by the Department on August 26, 2003. The stormwater is now discharged to the wastewater treatment lagoon. The lagoon's volume is sufficient to handle stormwater from expected precipitation events.
- Fact Sheet Page 9 and Page 10 – These two pages of the fact sheet refer to Flow, BOD, and TSS loadings criteria presented in the facility's 1996 O&M Manual. Tree Top Inc. disputes that the loading values for these parameters were intended to be used as design criteria. The Department's position is if the values given in the design criteria section of the O&M Manual are in error, the O&M Manual will be required to be updated when the permit is re-issued in five years. No update to the O&M Manual is required now because the effluent characteristics are well within permit limits.

Public notice of the availability of the draft reauthorized permit is required at least 30 days before the permit is issued [Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-220-050]. The fact sheet and draft permit are available for review (see Appendix A - Public Involvement for more detail on the Public Notice procedures).

After the public comment period has closed, the Department will summarize the substantive comments and the response to each comment. The summary and response to comments will become part of the file for the permit and parties submitting comments will receive a copy of the Department's response. Comments and the resultant changes to the permit will be summarized in the fact sheet addendum, Appendix B - Response to Comments.

IV. RECOMMENDATION FOR PERMIT ISSUANCE

The Department proposes that this permit be reauthorized for five years.

APPENDIX A -- PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION

The Department has determined to reauthorize a discharge permit to the applicant listed on page 1 of this fact sheet addendum. The permit contains conditions and effluent limitations that are described in the fact sheet.

Public notice of application was published on July 15, 2004 in the Wenatchee World to inform the public that an application had been submitted and to invite comment on the reauthorization of this permit.

The Department will publish a Public Notice of Draft Reauthorization (PNOD) on July 27, 2005, in the Wenatchee World to inform the public that a draft permit and fact sheet are available for review. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments regarding the draft permit. The draft permit, fact sheet, and related documents are available for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays, by appointment, at the regional office listed below. Written comments should be mailed to:

Water Quality Permit Coordinator
Department of Ecology
Central Regional Office
15 West Yakima Avenue, Suite 200
Yakima, Washington 98902

Any interested party may comment on the draft permit or request a public hearing on this draft permit within the 30-day comment period to the address above. The request for a hearing shall indicate the interest of the party and the reasons why the hearing is warranted. The Department will hold a hearing if it determines there is a significant public interest in the draft permit (WAC 173-220-090). Public notice regarding any hearing will be circulated at least 30 days in advance of the hearing. People expressing an interest in this permit will be mailed an individual notice of hearing (WAC 173-220-100).

Comments should reference specific test followed by proposed modification or concern when possible. Comments may address technical issues, accuracy and completeness of information, the scope of the facility's proposed coverage, adequacy of environmental protection, permit conditions, or any other concern that would result from reauthorization of this permit.

The Department will consider all comments received within 30 days from the date of the PNOD indicated above, in formulating a final determination to issue, revise, or deny the permit. The Department's response to all significant comments is available upon request and will be mailed directly to people expressing an interest in this permit.

Further information may be obtained from the Department by telephone at (509) 457-7105, or by writing to the address listed above.

APPENDIX B -- RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

Rob Kirschner submitted an email with questions about the Reauthorized permit for Tree Top Wenatchee. The Department offers the following responses:

Question 1.

Why hasn't the Department been able to determine if there is a reasonable potential for toxic chemical discharges from the Tree Top facility to exceed the State's surface water quality standards?

The Department's response:

The agency has insufficient ambient data. Given the paucity of data regarding pollutant concentrations in the Columbia River near Wenatchee, an adequate Reasonable Potential study is not feasible. Therefore the Department's Water Quality Program has requested funding so that a short-term ambient monitoring station can be established on the Columbia River near Wenatchee.

Question 2.

Is the Department or the Tree Top facility responsible for providing a "sufficient database of toxic/chemical analyses"?

The Department's response:

The industry is responsible to provide information on chemicals used or generated in its process. The company's wastewater discharge application stated that toxic pollutants were believed not present in its wastewater discharge.

Question 3.

Is chlorine one of the "priority pollutants" that the proposed permit will require effluent analyses for?

The Department's response:

Chlorine is not a priority pollutant according to the EPA priority pollutant list. Chlorine is not utilized in the wastewater treatment process. There is a State Water Quality Criterion for Total Residual Chlorine. This criterion is necessary for wastewater treatment plants with chlorine disinfection. Tree Top Wenatchee's effluent does not require disinfection. Therefore, this is not a chemical of concern.

Fruit processing produces this wastewater discharge. Sanitation with chlorine-based cleaners is the most likely source of any toxic chemicals. Chlorine from the cleaning compounds is oxidized in the facility's large aerated wastewater lagoon. The majority of the associated break-down

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EXPIRATION DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

products volatilize and are released to the atmosphere, prior to the wastewater discharge to the Columbia River. Additionally, the wastewater discharge receives a large amount of dilution in the Columbia River; therefore any remaining pollutants should not have reasonable potential to exceed water quality standards.